

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 SS-15 SSO-00 /033 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4758

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0896

DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR ASST. SEC'Y PARSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, KU, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON'S REPLY TO MINISTER ATEEQI'S LETTER

REF: STATE 42819

1. REFTEL RECEIVED SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AND DELIVERED SAME MORNING TO KHALED ABU SU'UD. ATEEQI IS PRESENTLY ILL AND IS RESTING IN COUNTRY OUTSIDE KUWAIT CITY. HOWEVER, CONTENTS OF LETTER WERE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION BY ABU SU'UD AND UNDERSECRETARY, SHAIKH ALI KHALIFA AL'SABAH.

2. SHORTLY AFTER NOON UNDERSECRETARY PHONED EMBOFF TO SAY THAT CONTENTS OF SECRETARY SIMON'S LETTER HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO MINISTER. HE SAID THAT MINISTER THOUGHT SUBSTANCE OF LETTER COMPRISED THOROUGHLY ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO HIS LETTER OF JANUARY 19. ALI KHALIFA ADDED THAT GOK NEVER INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT USG WAS AT ALL AT FAULT OVER LEAKAGE TO PRESS OF CONFIDENTIAL INFO. EARLIER ABU SU'UD TOLD EMBOFF INFORMALLY HE THOUGHT ANSWER TO LETTER WAS QUITE SATISFACTORY. FYI HE ALSO SHOWED EMBOFF COPY OF FEBRUARY 15 ISSUE OF MIDEAST REPORT CONTAINING PARSKY INTERVIEW. ABU SU'UD PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH PARSKY'S REMARKS ON KUWAIT (PAGE 2; VOL. 9 NO. 3) END FYI.

3. ALI KHALIFA URGED THAT PARSKY NOT RPT NOT DIVULGE  
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CONTENTS OF LETTER TO PRESS. HE SAID THAT ATEEQI WISHES

TO KEEP CORRESPONDENCE CONFIDENTIAL. ATEEQI AND OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS FEAR THAT BY RELEASING LETTER TO PRESS UNDUE ATTENTION WILL BE DRAWN TO KUWAITI INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN U.S. FURTHERMORE, ALI KHALIFA MADE CLEAR THAT ATEEQI IS CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN KUWAIT THAT COULD DEVELOP IF SECRETARY SIMON'S LETTER IS RELEASED TO U.S. NEWSPAPERS.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: GOK CLEARLY PLEASED WITH CONTENTS SECRETARY SIMON'S REPLY AND WILLING DROP MATTER AT THIS POINT. PARISKY INTERVIEW IN MIDEAST REPORT APPARENTLY SATISFIES ANY DESIRE GOK MAY HAVE HAD REGARDING PUBLIC STATEMENT BY USG ON SUBJECT OF KUWAITI INVESTMENT IN U.S. IN ANY CASE, ATEEQI WOULD BE UPSET IF SUBSTANCE OF SECRETARY SIMON'S REPLY WAS DIVULGED TO PRESS. WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT ACTION PLANNED IN REFTTEL PARA 2, WHICH WE REALIZE WAS IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION, CAN BE AVOIDED. IF SO, BELIEVE WE CAN CONSIDER MATTER CLOSED AND ATEEQI SATISFIED BY OUR RESPONSE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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